AIDS patients in Orissa and North Eastern States

*242. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of people in the country especially in Orissa and North East States living with HIV virus that causes AIDS, are struggling for survival with hundreds dying with no access to treatment;

(b) if so, whether the medicines are expensive that poor people are unable to afford; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Manipur and Nagaland in the North Eastern Region have prevalence levels of more than 1% HIV infection. Orissa and other States of North Eastern Region have lower than 1% prevalence of HIV infection. On the basis of prevalence of HIV/AIDS and estimated patient load, Government has set up Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART) Centres to provide treatment to AIDS patients found eligible for treatment.

(b) Average cost of treatment is around Rs. 8000 per patient per year. The treatment is provided free at ART centres set up under NACP.

(c) The Government has set up 101 ART Centres in the country to provide free ART to AIDS patients. Presently 52,663 patients are seeking treatment in these centres. To ensure continuous supply, ARV drugs, HIV diagnostic kits and CD4 kits are being procured centrally in bulk at competitive prices. In addition, 122 Community Care Centres are being supported by the Government to provide care, support and treatment of Opportunistic Infection to People Living with HIV/AIDS(PLHAs).

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया: सभापति जी, मेरा पहला सप्लीमेंटरी यह है कि प्रधानमंत्री जी के नेतृत्व में नेशनल एड्स कंट्रोल के लिए recently एक नेशनल काउंसिल का गठन किया गया है, जो स्टेट काउंसिल के मिनिस्टर्स और चीफ मिनिस्टर्स को लेकर बनी है। मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना

चाहूंगी कि क्या उड़ीसा सरकार को भी इसमें शामिल किया गया है और क्या उड़ीसा सरकार ने इस मामले में कुछ Financial Assistance के लिए मांग की है, अगर मांग की है, तो सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने उनको Financial Assistance देने का कोई वायदा किया है?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the National AIDS Council was formed under the Chairmanship of hon. Prime Minister. In this Council, there are 31 Ministers as associate members. All States are included in it. There is no exemption for Orissa. We are providing every State some funds based on their request. If the hon. Member wants, I will send the details.

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया: सर, मेरा दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी यह है कि 2000-2004 तक उड़ीसा Low-Prevalent AIDS राज्य में गिना जाता था, लेकिन अकस्मात् 2005 में वहां 291 एड्स केसेज़ detect हुए और death हो गई। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगी कि उड़ीसा में किन-किन इलाकों और जिलों में कितने AIDS Care Centre लिए गए हैं, उड़ीसा में पिछले तीन सालों में कितने केसेज detect हुए हैं कितनी deaths हुई हैं, और अभी कितने Under Care में हैं?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, in Orissa, Ganjam is the high-prevalence district, and other districts have prevalence level of lower than one per cent HIV infection. In Berhampur, we have started one ART Centre. Through this Centre, we are providing free treatment. Next year, we want to start two more ART Centres in Berhampur and Cuttack.

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Madam, you are taking up only one place.

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: This year, one ART Centre and in the next year, we will be starting two more; so three ART Centres will be there and sentinel sites are also there. ...*(Interruptions)*... There are 31 sentinel sites.

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: What about the number of deaths that took place in the last three years?

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, ठीक है।

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Sir, the crux of the question still remains to be answered. In part (c), the hon. Minister has mentioned about the entire Budget for the country, and how many patients have been treated. I will request the hon. Minister to submit data to show us what percentage of the AIDS patients in the country are in Orissa, and, accordingly, what

percentage of the Budget for those ART Centres is being given to Orissa. There is a fear that there is injustice to Orissa. We want to see the facts. What is the percentage of the funding going to Orissa?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, so far, we have alloted Rs. 82 crores to Orissa. As compared to other States, in Orissa prevalence of HIV infection is low.

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Can you please send the data?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: I will send the data, Sir.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Sir, in the States of Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland which are close to the drug-affected Golden Triangle, there is a very high incidence of HIV amongst injectable drug users. Sir, a lot of women sex workers have claimed that they are taking injectable drugs, which has actually taken this risk from the higher risk targets to the low-risk population. This has spread it from the high risk people to the monogamous women and their children. I want to ask the hon. Minister what specific intervention programmes does she have in place to target the injectable drug users and the mobile population of truckers and sex workers?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, we have given this job to the NGOs, which work on the sex workers' sites. There are 1088 targeted intervention sites managed by 1,000 NGOs. Free treatment, and free condoms are given by the NGOs. We are only able to cover 54 per cent of this fund. For drug injectors also, we are providing disposable syringes and educating them to come to take syringes from the hospitals.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question, Question No. 243.

*243. [The questioner(s) (Shri B.K. Hariprasad) was absent. For answer *vide* page 30.]

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, 243 is a very important question.

श्री सभापति: माननीय सदस्य नहीं हैं।

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the Minister is ready to reply. This is regarding *gutka*. If there is a message from the Chair to the countrymen

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.